

## ***MIEMSS Executive Director's Update February, 2010***

***HC Standard.*** *HC Standard 3* is currently in operation on the MIEMSS production environment. Version 3 of HC continues to [host](#) a more robust CHATS (County Hospital Alert Tracking System) with alert definitions displayed for the public and includes FRED, CHRS (County Hospital Request System), and the PTS (Patient Tracking System.) HC FRED is operational and is being used for daily alerts and is receiving positive feedback with many facilities expressing an interest in future enhancements to this system. The CHRS application is being used by EMRC, and EMRC has been fully moved to the HC3 EMRC application. Patient tracking was successfully utilized at the Western Maryland Health System hospital move and provided real time situational updates as patients were transferred from the closing facility to the new facility. The application included mapping and confirming patients safely arrived at the destination facility. Planning is underway to create a dashboard to incorporate additional programs including the Maryland Health Alert Network, ESSENCE, WebEOC, [and](#) ESAR-VHP. MIEMSS has conducted two administrator training courses, seven in-person user training courses, and [six](#) online user training courses. MIEMSS continues to provide support and assistance to facilities as they come online to the new HC Standard 3.

***2010 Update for Maryland Medical Protocols for EMS Providers.*** Updates for the Maryland Medical Protocols for EMS Providers were developed by the multi-disciplinary Protocol Review Committee and approved by the EMS Board. Included in this year's revisions are a new optional protocol for induced hypothermia after cardiac arrest, a new pilot protocol for pandemic influenza, and authorization for the use of Glidescope® airway devices. The 2010 updated Maryland Medical Protocols for EMS will be placed on the MIEMSS web site in the near future. Full versions of the protocols, as well as the selected updated sections will be available. Pocket versions will be printed and distributed statewide. These protocols are effective July 1, 2010.

***Disaster Medical Assistance Team.*** Maryland is forming a new Disaster Medical Assistance Team (MD-1 DMAT). MD-1 DMAT is a group of dedicated medical professionals from within the State of Maryland and the National Capitol Region. MD-1 DMAT is a member of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The purpose of the team is to provide medical care during a disaster or any event that overwhelms a region's healthcare infrastructure.

If you are interested in getting more information about MD-1 DMAT, it can be found on the website: [www.md1dmat.org](http://www.md1dmat.org).

***Volunteer Ambulance Inspection Program.*** The updated Maryland Volunteer Ambulance Inspection Program (VAIP) draft document has been completed and is being reviewed by various agencies and organizations. When the draft has been approved, the completed document will be sent for SEMSAC and EMS Board approval and then distributed statewide.

***EMS Links and Information Regarding H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu).*** MIEMSS continues working with the CDC and other health related agencies to develop Swine-Origin Influenza A (H1N1) guidance specific for EMS and 9-1-1 PSAPs. Please see the MIEMSS web site ([www.miemss.org](http://www.miemss.org)) for updated information. MIEMSS strongly encourages all EMS providers to get vaccinated if they have not already done so.

***Montgomery County Volunteers Launch Volunteer Fire-Rescue Recruiting Station.*** The Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Rescue Association (MCVFRA) has developed an innovative recruitment initiative to tackle this challenge. They are launching a volunteer fire-rescue recruiting station to meet the needs of the 19 volunteer fire and rescue departments in Montgomery County. The new store-front recruiting station, which will be opening in the coming weeks, will feature the volunteer experience with hands-on activities and current volunteers available to answer questions and share their experiences. The Recruiting Station is located near downtown Rockville. The station offers hands-on equipment including a fire engine cab, fire hydrant and hose to hook-up, fire gear, and other equipment that potential volunteers can try. All of the volunteer fire and rescue departments in Montgomery County offer volunteer opportunities ranging from firefighting, emergency medical technicians (EMT), paramedic, and emergency medical services (EMS), responses to dive rescue, collapse rescue, administrative and auxiliary services.

***Education Standards Committee.*** MIEMSS formed an EMS education standards committee to review and prepare for implementation of the standards by 2011/2012. The committee is comprised of representatives from volunteer, career, commercial, and educational programs and will review the standards, strategize how to implement the standards, as well as determine how best to implement the new levels in Maryland. The committee met in October and November and has three subcommittees that will review and prepare for the implementation of the Education Standards in Maryland. The three subcommittees are the ALS Committee of SEMSAC, the BLS Committee of SEMSAC, as well as the EMS Education Standards Operations Committee. Information on the National EMS Education Standards can be found at [www.EMS.gov](http://www.EMS.gov). The corresponding Instructional Guidelines for Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Advanced EMT (AEMT), and Paramedic are also posted. To download a PDF version of these documents, please go to [www.EMS.gov](http://www.EMS.gov), click "Education" on the top red navigation bar and select "National EMS Education Standards" from the drop-down menu.

***SEMSAC BLS Committee.*** The BLS Committee finalized the development of the curriculum for the revised EMT-Basic refresher course. The revised curriculum focuses on medical emergencies, the associated patient assessment, as well as interventions. The revised curriculum is expected to be rolled out to instructors during the spring of 2010 and implemented July 1, 2010. Further, as described above, the BLS Committee is working with the EMS Education Standards Committee to prepare for implementing the EMR and EMT education standards in Maryland.

***Learning Management System (LMS) and Instructors' Corner.*** The Office of Licensure and Certification has successfully implemented an instructors' corner where BLS, ALS, EMD, and EMSC instructors can share educational resources including presentations, outlines, and other materials with other instructors, statewide. MIEMSS has implemented a learning management system (LMS) where protocol updates, continuing education, and other EMS educational content can be attended by EMS providers, statewide. The LMS uses Articulate.com software and allows for the asynchronous viewing of courses with a high degree of authenticity. The Office, in conjunction with other MIEMSS departments and MFRI is working on the design and development of the 2010 protocol training update for BLS and ALS providers.

***Law Enforcement Emergency Medical Care Course.*** MIEMSS continues to work with the law enforcement community in fine-tuning an emergency medical care course with specificity and applicability to the law enforcement needs. The medical course contains core first responder content including CPR/AED, patient assessment, medical and trauma care, but also contains law enforcement-specific content such as Care Under Fire, with emphasis on self-care and fellow-officer care in a hazardous environment. Policies and procedures for the course have been completed and are being reviewed by the law enforcement community.

***Practice Analysis.*** MIEMSS worked with the Atlantic Council to conduct a practice analysis. The practice analysis is a methodical process to provide a snap-shot of the practices in the pre-hospital setting. Data from the practice analysis will be used to provide content validity for future certification examinations offered in the Atlantic Council. The practice analysis was completed in October and will be utilized to reference examination items by 2012.

***National EMS Education Standards and Instructor Guidelines Now Available.*** The National EMS Education Standards have been approved and posted on [www.EMS.gov](http://www.EMS.gov). The corresponding Instructional Guidelines for Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Advanced EMT (AEMT), and Paramedic are also posted. To download a PDF version of these documents, please go to [www.EMS.gov](http://www.EMS.gov), click "Education" on the top red navigation bar and select "National EMS Education Standards" from the drop-down menu. Maryland is preparing to transition to the new levels and a subcommittee of SEMSAC is being formed to strategize and collaborate on achieving successful transition from the National Standard Curricula to the EMS Education Standards.

***FEMA and FCC Announce Adoption of Standards for Wireless Carriers to Receive and Deliver Emergency Alerts via Mobile Devices.*** As part of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), the nation's next generation of emergency alert and warning networks, the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today announced the adoption of the design specifications for the development of a gateway interface that will enable wireless carriers to provide its customers with timely and accurate emergency alerts and warnings via their cell phones and other mobile devices. The Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS) is one of many projects within IPAWS intended to provide emergency managers and the President of the United States a means to send alerts and warnings to the public. Specifically, CMAS provides Federal, state, territorial, tribal and local government officials the ability to send 90 character geographically targeted text messages to the public regarding emergency alert and warning of imminent threats to life and property, Amber alerts, and Presidential emergency messages. The CMAS is a combined effort of the federal government and cellular providers to define a common standard for cellular alerts.

### ***Regional Programs and Emergency Operations.***

#### ***Regional Health and Medical Committees.***

- The Region III Health and Medical Taskforce continues to work to purchase the necessary hardware for the electronic patient tracking application that has been developed with FY '08 UASI funding. This system was recently tested during the Western MD Health System move in Allegany County. Mass casualty support vehicles and an alternate care site supplies are also being purchased with FY08 UASI funds.
- The Region V Regional Hospital and Health Care Memorandum of Understanding regarding Mass Casualty and Disaster Situations is currently under legal review. The goal is for this overarching agreement to be accepted Region-wide and serve as a statewide template.
- The Region III and V Health & Medical Taskforces have developed a template for use in the application process for the HPP funds.
- The \$1.2 million Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grants through which MIEMSS received funding to connect the remaining hospitals and 911 centers to the PSInet with VoIP phones. Site surveys and installations continue statewide. A one year extension has been received for the completion of this project.

- The Region III Office, in coordination with the MIEMSS Communications Department, has completed the installation of VoIP phones to provide DEMSTel connectivity to all Region III Hospitals with funding provided by an Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant.
- The EMS Focus group continues to meet to develop a draft recommendation for the composition of EMS Strike Teams.
- A survey to reassess transportation capabilities, mass casualty supplies, and nerve agent antidote supplies has been completed and will be disseminated to local EMS jurisdictions shortly.
- MEMA and MDE continue to review mass decontamination capabilities and the availability of Personal Protective Equipment for adequacy and interoperability.
- The MIEMSS Regional offices are managing multiple projects throughout the state. For more information about any of the items listed below, contact your appropriate MIEMSS Regional office
- Regional Offices have received and prioritized funding for the first half of FY10 50/50 Matching Grant applications.
- The Annual Miltenberger Emergency Services Seminar will be held March 12-13, 2010. Teamwork between the Region I Office, the local hospitals, and other local agencies and institutions developed a supportive learning environment that encompasses Fire, EMS, EMD, and Nursing topics.
- Allegany and Garrett counties continue to implement SWOT recommendations, including development of a formal QA/QI program.
- The Somerset County SWOT continues to meet with county stakeholders to develop enhancements to EMS in the county.
- The Annual Pyramid Conference 2010 will be held October 9 and 10, 2010.
- All regional offices are currently in the process of updating quality assurance plans and medical director agreements in preparation for the upcoming operational programs re-designation surveys.
- Voluntary Ambulance Inspections are ongoing Statewide.
- The Region IV Council Sub-Committee for Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement meets the first Monday of each quarter.

***Emergency Medical Services for Children Program (EMSC).*** Work continues on the **EMSC Partnership Grant** focused on the ten Federal EMSC Performance Measures that have 2011 and 2017 target dates for achievement. The state **Pediatric Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (PEMAC)** 2010 meetings and subcommittee dates are confirmed and posted on the website. We will continue to use Go To Meeting web platform with the handouts, minutes and reference materials posted on PEMAC pages of the MIEMSS website. Maryland EMSC program continues to partner with the Chesapeake Applied Research Network based at Children's National Medical Center and will be facilitating EMS focus groups in December and January. These focus groups will provide the pediatric emergency medical research team with input on the development and piloting of an Asthma severity score for use in assessment of children's degree of respiratory distress in the out of hospital environment.

- Maryland ***RISK WATCH Champion Team*** continues to work with the MSFA Fire Prevention & Life Safety Committee and Miss Fire Prevention & 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up to distribute injury prevention materials throughout the year. Four displays have been purchased for educational programs and planning for the 2010 convention is underway. Fall Risk Watch days were held at each of the special education centers in Prince George's County and Montgomery County is circulating the educational standards document for Risk Watch.
- The ***Safe Kids Maryland Coalition*** held its last quarterly meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup> in Annapolis with a focus on holiday safety. Meetings, agendas and minutes are posted on the expanded website along with state and national resources for injury prevention – **[www.safekidsmd.org](http://www.safekidsmd.org)**. 2010 meeting dates have been finalized with Maryland Highway Safety Office and are posted on the website. Please contact the Maryland Safe Kids coalition through the EMSC Office 410-706-1758.

The ***Child Passenger Safety (CPS) & Occupant Protection Healthcare Project:***

- Three CPS Conference call are archived and available for viewing or download on the website **[www.miemss.org/EMSCwww/CPSHome.htm](http://www.miemss.org/EMSCwww/CPSHome.htm)**;
- **SECURE** Ambulance Safety project posters are now available from the EMSC & SOCALR offices
- **BUCKLE UP – Every Ride Every Time** posters have been distributed through regional council meetings in support of the November “Click It or Ticket” enforcement effort across the state.
- **Rear Facing Longer** posters are now available and were sent to primary care offices and hospitals.
- **Booster Seat** posters are also now available as part of the educational campaign.

***Yellow Alert.*** MIEMSS continues to closely monitoring yellow and red alert activity, which has decreased significantly in the past year, even with the onset of the H1N1 virus in April. Alerts have not increased significantly even during the presence of H1N1. MIEMSS is continuing to work closely with DHMH and the Maryland Hospital Association (MHA) to monitor the impact H1N1 and seasonal flu is having on hospitals related to overcrowding and diversions.

***Public Access AED Program.*** Currently, there are 1151 approved layperson AED programs in Maryland with a total of 3321 sites. A list of approved programs is updated monthly and available on the MIEMSS website at <http://www.miemss.org/Approved.doc>.

**Cardiac Centers.** In response to informal comments received from Draft 2 of the STEMI regulations, MIEMSS has drafted and released for informal comment a third set of regulations. The third draft is posted on the MIEMSS webpage and has been widely distributed to the Maryland STEMI System stakeholder group. Comments are due to MIEMSS by December 4, 2009. MIEMSS will continue to work with the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC), hospitals, ED physicians and cardiologists, EMS providers, etc. to move forward with the designation of STEMI centers in Maryland. MIEMSS has also developed a Minimum Standardized 12 Lead Curriculum that includes the minimum course content that should be taught to ALS providers performing and interpreting 12 lead ECGs. MHCC also recently changed the door to balloon time requirement for Primary PCI hospitals from 120 minutes in 80% of patients to 90 minutes in 75% of patients. The new standard becomes effective January 1, 2010. There are currently 23 hospitals in Maryland that perform primary PCI.

**Primary Stroke Centers.** MIEMSS continues to work closely with system stakeholders to improve acute stroke care in Maryland. Prehospital protocols and designated Primary Stroke Centers play pivotal roles in a statewide acute stroke system of care. The number of designated Primary Stroke Centers statewide is currently 34. Currently, all surveys and designations are completed. A current list of approved designated Primary Stroke Centers is located on the MIEMSS website. MIEMSS continues working with the telemedicine workgroup of the Governor's Advisory Council on Heart Disease and Stroke and DHMH's Office of Chronic Disease Prevention to explore a statewide stroke telemedicine system. This system would potentially extend stroke neurology expertise to underserved regions of the state, mitigating neurology specialist shortages and the risks of PSCs losing critical resources. The group is working to gather support, refine the project's charter and identify funding sources. MIEMSS continues working with the workgroup from the STROKE QIC in developing stroke inter-facility transfer guidelines. The primary purpose of the inter-facility transfer guidelines is to ensure patient safety, maximize quality of care and effectively help to ensure the efficient leveraging of scarce health care resources. This group is working to refine the project's charter, identify available resources and identify issues associated with inter-facility transfers.

**Prehospital Stroke Course Online.** The American Heart Association's Stroke Prehospital Care online course is now available. The online course is free and is specifically for Prehospital Care providers. To access this course go to the MIEMSS home page and click on Prehospital Stroke Module located under "What's New" and follow the instructions. A student's computer must be setup with a built-in or separate sound card along with either speakers or a headset. The stroke course consists of four modules that use audio heavily. MIEMSS will grant one hour of stroke continuing education credit to students who successfully complete the course. Students complete an online test after completing all four modules. The course generally requires one to two hours to complete. Registration is currently open to affiliated EMS providers at the EMT-Basic level or higher, and the course must be completed within 30 days of receiving a passcode when signing up. Approximately 140 providers have participated in the program.

***EMS Base Stations.*** There are 17 bases stations that have completed their applications and are in the process of finalizing their site visits with the review teams. The EMS Board will be addressing the re-designations at the March meeting. Until that time, all 2009 reviewed hospitals will remain as "approved base stations" until EMS Board final actions. The updated application for Base Stations is in its final review and will be distributed in the near future.

***EMAIS®.*** The enhanced, printable Patient Care Report (PCR) from EMAIS® has been tested and deployed. This final version of the report incorporates recommendations from both EMS jurisdictions and hospitals that use EMAIS®. An e-commerce style password reset feature has been launched to assist providers with password problems. Currently, seventeen jurisdictions are utilizing EMAIS®, along with fourteen Operational Programs statewide. Targeted Data Exports have been constructed for EMAIS® Jurisdictions and Programs to use in local EMS management.

A Request For Proposals (RFPs) was constructed for the updated version of EMAIS®. It was submitted to the Department Of Informational Technology (DOIT) for review. DOIT approval of the RFP was recently received. It will now be published on eMarylandmarketplace and sent to over 25 vendors.



## ***EMS Continuing Education Programs***

***EMS Today*** (March 2 – 6, 2010) Baltimore Convention Center

***Miltenberger Emergency Services Seminar*** (March 12 – 13, 2010) Rocky Gap MD.

***Advanced Burn Life Support Provider Course*** (March, 27, 2010) Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, 4940 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21224. Actual registration can be found at <http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=821681>

The Advanced Burn Life Support Provider Course is an eight-hour course for physicians, nurses, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, therapists and paramedics. The course provides guidelines in the assessment and management of the burn patient during the first 24 hours post injury. Following a series of lectures, case studies are presented for group discussions.

***Trauma Care Conference*** (April 7, 2010) Hagerstown Community College  
For more information please call: 301-790-2800 ext. 236  
or visit [www.hagerstowncc.edu/coned/seminars](http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/coned/seminars)

***Frederick County EMS Seminar*** (April 2010 exact date and location TBA)

***2010 Public Fire and Life Safety Educator Seminar*** (April 10, 2010) MFRI

***2010 Spring Quality Assurance Officer Training Course*** (April 24-25, 2010) Huntingtown VFD and RS. Please contact the Region V Office to register 301-474-1485 or 1-877-498-5551

***Annual MSFA Convention*** (June 12-18, 2010) Ocean City, MD - Educational Seminars will be held Sunday – Tuesday

***Mid- Atlantic Life Safety Conference*** (September 28, 2010) Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, Columbia Maryland

***Pyramid EMS Conference 2010*** (October 8-10, 2010) Solomons Island

Please check with your MIEMSS regional office, the *Maryland EMS News*, or the MIEMSS web page about additional registration information.